(b) if so, the details of the action taken; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Army authorities have informed that no proposal to set up Sainik Bharti Board at Aheerwal region of Haryana has been received.

(b) The question does not arise.

India's Request to US for Purchase of Patriot Missile System

2404. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has requested the US to sell to it Patriot Anti-Missile System and upgrade Arrow Missile Shield System; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the US thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A request for technical information on the Patriot anti-missile system has been sent to the Defence Cooperation Agency of the US government. The proposal is at a preliminary stage and a decision will be taken on receipt of evaluation of the technical information. There is no proposal to acquire and upgrade the Arrow Missile Shield System.

Time Spent by Indian Navy on the High Seas

2405. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in-house analysis of the Indian Navy has revealed that the Navy is not doing enough open ocean work and continuing itself only to the coasts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps the Ministry is taking or propose to take to direct Navy to spend much more time on high seas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.